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Gun Dealer Is Quizzed on Import Case

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Staff Reporter

Senate investigators yesterday turned to the subject of international gun traffic in their probe of legislation needed to curb the flow of arms within the United States.

Sen. Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.), chairman of the subcommittee to Investigate Juvenile Delinquency, said, "A very real cause of the mail-order gun problem is the mother-lode of fire arms, cached in foreign countries throughout the world that fast-buck artists are exploiting to arm the delinquent teen-agers,

hoodlums and psychopaths who walk the streets of America."

The only witness during yesterday's morning and late afternoon hearings was gun merchant Haywood H. Hunter, who was arrested in Los Angeles Monday on a charge of conspiracy to defraud the Government.

Hunter's arrest stemmed from the Government's allegation that he falsified invoices and understated the value of a 1963 shipment of firearms, including submachine guns, from Singapore to Oregon.

Hunter, 38, was named by Los Angeles police witnesses

last year as one of several dealers whose records were unavailable to help trace guns used in crimes.

He told the subcommittee that many of his records are in Hamburg, Germany, which is now his headquarters.

Dodd suggested that the records were shipped out of the country because of the subcommittee investigation, but Hunter denied it. Pressed by Dodd, he agreed to make the records available to the subcommittee later.

Questioned about the Singapore gun shipment, Hunter twice refused to reply on the ground that his answers might

tend to incriminate him, but the story emerged piecemeal anyway.

He said he bought about 500 assorted firearms from the Singapore Police Department.

He was "shocked," Hunter declared, when customs inspectors opened the shipment in Oregon and found 24 submachine guns, which carry a high duty, that were not listed on invoices.

The automatic weapons had been described to him as Beretta carbines, he said.

"Why the Singapore Police Department would sell me submachine guns, I don't know," said Hunter.

The Customs Bureau valued the shipments at \$69,000, but Hunter insisted that he paid only \$1250 for the lot.

Hunter is president of Hy Hunter Inc., Firearms Manufacturing Company, and the American Weapons Corp., which he described as the parent firm.

American Weapons, which was incorporated in Delaware in 1952, "is a company the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) started," Hunter told the subcommittee.

"I'm curious how you acquired this CIA corporation," said Sen. Kenneth B. Keating (R-N.Y.).

"I'm not sure that's not a secret," Hunter replied.

"Are you sure you are telling us the straight of this?" inquired Dodd.

"Certainly," said Hunter.

Keating suggested that the subcommittee probe deeper into that subject during some future executive session.



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HAYWOOD HUNTER
... testifies on guns.